

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 030845Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3670

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 12021

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE SITUATION AT THE ISOLATED GOVERNMENT HELD TOWNS OF TRAM KHNR AND SRANG IN THE ROUTE 3 AREA SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH REMAINED PRECARIOUS AS COMMUNIST GUNNERS SHELLED BOTH POSITIONS HEAVILY. THE GARRISON AT TRAM KHNR REPORTED AN ESTIMATED 400 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE FALLING UPON THEIR POSITION EARLY SATURDAY. THERE WAS NO REPORT ON CASUALTIES.

2. COMMUNIST FORCES SHELLED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE KOMPONG CHAM AREA DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS CONCERNING UPON THE TROOPS ENGAGED IN EXPANDING THE TOWN'S PERIMETER WEST OF THE AIRFIELD. OTHER COMMUNIST ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AGAINST THE SOUTHERN DEFENSES OF TAKEO, AT KOMPONG CHHNANG, AT SALA LEK PRAM AND THE NOW ISOLATED TOWN OF TUK LAK ON ROUTE 5, ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR SIRMREAP ANGKOR AND AT SVAY UNCLASSIFIED

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RIENG IN THE SOUTHEAST. FANK REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT

PATROLS MADE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY NEAR KOMPONG THOM AND PREY VENG. EIGHT ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THE ACTION AT PREY VENG.

3. THE FANK GARRISON AT VIHEAR SUOR 13 MILES NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH REPORTED ENEMY SHELLINGS ON FRIDAY FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ASSAULT WHICH WAS REPULSED. FANK SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES. AND AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF INACTIVITY IN THE ROUTE 26 AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH ON FRIDAY COMMUNIST FORCES MORTARED 7TH DIVISION POSITIONS.

4. THE ROUTE 4 CONVOY OF 198 TRUCKS AND 106 TRAILERS WHICH ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH THURSDAY FROM THE PORT OF KOMPONG SOM CARRIED MORE THAN 18,000 SACKS OF RICE. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS EN ROUTE. AND A 10-CRAFT RIVER CONVOY CARRYING TROOPS, RICE AND MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES ARRIVED SAFELY IN KOMPONG CHAM EARLY FRIDAY FROM PHNOM PENH, WITH ONLY ONE MINOR INCIDENT REPORTED EN ROUTE.

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